

Highlight News / December 13, 2021



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)



World Bank projects slow growth for Cambodia's economy in 2021



Cambodia News | 10 December, 2021

World Bank projects Cambodia's economic growth at 2.2 percent this year, impeded by slow growth in services including tourism, and in construction, and real estate. The traditional growth drivers – the garment, travel goods, footwear, and bicycle manufacturing industries, as well as agriculture, are underpinning the economic recovery, according to Living with Covid-19, the World Bank's latest Economic Update for Cambodia issued on December 9. The Cambodia Economic Update is a biannual report that provides up-to-date information on short- and medium-term macroeconomic developments in Cambodia. Despite recovery in manufacturing exports and expansion of agricultural commodity exports, the trade deficit has widened significantly, caused by rising imports of a few items, especially gold, used for savings, read the report. "As we all know, Cambodia is now living with Covid-19 and very large numbers of populations have been vaccinated and the government began reopening the country for business, while continuing to enforce protective health measures," said World Bank Country Manager for Cambodia, Maryam Salim. "At the World Bank, we are preparing a Performance and Learning Review that will allow us to further strengthen and align our partnership with Cambodia as the country strives to achieve a resilient recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic," Salim

added. However, growth is projected to reach 4.5 percent in 2022, but any renewed spread of the virus could put the recovery at risk, stated the World Bank report. To jump start the economic recovery, the report recommends key reforms areas, including, clear rules and regulations on living with Covid-19 under the "new normal", regulatory and fiscal measures that support revival in the tourism sector, and prompt introduction of regulations to implement the new investment law. It also says as the economic recovery takes shape, Cambodia can then start rebuilding its fiscal space and continues to monitor asset quality and improve confidence in the banking system. AKP-Chea Vannak

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50986115/world-bank-projects-slow-growth-for-cambodias-economy-in-2021/>

Cambodia's exports to US nets \$5.5 billion in January-October



Cambodia News | 10 December, 2021

From January through October, Cambodia exported \$5,516.9 million worth of products to the US, a 30.9% increase compared to the same period last year. Trade figures from the US Census Bureau showed that the Kingdom imported \$346.6 million worth of goods from the world's biggest economic nation, a year-on-year increase of 28.7%. This resulted in Cambodia's trade surplus with the US at \$6,877 million, a 31% increase compared to the same period last year. Cambodia's exports to the US were mostly garments and included goods such as

footwear, bicycles and furniture. They are exported under the US Generalised System of Preference. The Kingdom imports automobiles, machinery, electrical appliances and electronics. Bilateral trade between the Kingdom and the US amounted to \$6.9 billion in 2020, which was up 17.89% from 2019. The value of Cambodian goods exported to the US was \$6.5 billion in 2020. That figure rose 22.79% from the \$5.3 billion recorded in 2019.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50986395/cambodias-exports-to-us-nets-5-5-billion-in-january-october/>

Ministry, business operators gear up for safe tourism



Laos News | 13 December, 2021

Government officials and business operators have been discussing plans to reopen Laos to tourists next month, under special conditions put in place because of the Covid outbreak. The online meeting took place after the government approved the “green tourism areas” scheme, with a view to allowing tourists to visit selected areas. The meeting was chaired by the Director General of the Planning and International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Mrs Phengchanh Phengmeuang. Participants would discuss arrangements for people visiting designated “green travel” zones, where measures would be introduced to ensure safe travel and prevent the spread of Covid, she said. Ministry officials and

tourism-related business operators will produce a video to explain procedures to visitors and will improve contact tracing. They will also run a publicity campaign on social media, radio, television and in newspapers about the reopening of specific tourist destinations and direct visitors to official websites for further information. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism will provide foreign embassies in Laos with details of the plan, including information about safety measures, and will also circulate information about LaoSafe through provincial travel agencies, tourism associations, and online workshops. The ministry will also give guidance to tourism businesses, drivers and guides through online workshops and other channels as requested or needed, and will run online sessions on safe travel protocols for tour operators. Green zones will be set up with a view to ensuring the safety of travellers and service providers in Vangvieng and Champassak, Khammuan, Xayaboury and Luang Prabang provinces. Lao and foreign visitors who wish to travel to green zones must have had two doses of a Covid vaccine less than 14 days prior to travel. Foreign visitors must apply for a pass by filling out an online eVisa form and must have had a PCR Covid test less than 72 hours before entering Laos. They must also have another test upon arrival in Laos. While waiting for the test results, visitors must quarantine in a designated hotel for 24 hours. If the test is negative,

visitors can proceed to a green zone. Areas classified as green zones must have a population that is 70-80 percent vaccinated, while 90-95 percent of service providers must also be vaccinated. For travel in green zones, tourists must book hotels that have been approved by LaoSafe as well as show a Covid vaccination certificate. Deputy Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone said last month the government will invite Lao and foreign tourists who have been fully vaccinated against Covid to come to Laos, with a particular focus on visitors from China and the Republic of Korea. It is hoped that the Lao Thiao Lao (Lao Visit Laos) campaign will attract at least 1.9 million Lao visitors and more than 1 million foreign visitors in 2022.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Ministry_243_21.php

Onion prices stable despite low production in Minbu Township

 Myanmar News | 13 December, 2021

The prices of onion are stable at K250 and K300 per viss despite the lower entry to wholesale centre in Minbu Township of Magway Region, according to Daw Lei, owner of No (4) wholesale centre in Minbu. The villagers from Yenangyoung, Sinbyukyun and Minbu townships sold the million viss of onion per day last year to the onion wholesale centre in Minbu township and there are only thousands of tonnes in late monsoon period of this year. "According to the onion market of our township, we transport the

stocks to Rakhine State most at K400 or K500 per viss and the retail prices are at only K800 and K900 per viss in the markets of Minbu Township. Therefore, the prices are not much high and they are stable despite the low demand and production rate," U Thar Paw, onion merchant. There are about 10 onion wholesale centres in Minbu Township. The buying price is K250/300 while the selling price at K400/500 and the wholesale price is K800/900 per viss, according to wholesale centres of Minbu Township.— Zayar Htet (Minbu)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/onion-prices-stable-despite-low-production-in-minbu-township/>

Vietnam has 5,600 new digital technology firms in 2021

 Vietnam News | 12 December, 2021

Hanoi (VNS/VNA) - In 2021, Vietnam recorded 5,600 newly-established digital technology businesses, stemming from the need to work, sell and communicate online in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nguyen Thanh Tuyen, Deputy Director of Information Technology Department under the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), said statistics from the ministry showed that Vietnam currently had about 64,000 digital technology enterprises with more than one million employees. The working environment and non-contact economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic had made digital transformation faster and stronger as well as promoted the digital business community. "The number of Make-in-Vietnam businesses has

increased sharply,” Tuyen said. The department said in 2020, there were more than 34 platforms announced by the MIC as Make-in-Vietnam products. Many information security products had been also launched by Vietnamese enterprises. Digital technology enterprises such as VNPT, Viettel, CMC and FPT had potential and made great contributions to the development of digital government and digital economy with the construction of national digital platforms. In 2021, with the ministry’s leadership, Vietnamese businesses have researched new technologies such as 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), and Big Data. This has never been seen before. “That is the spread of the Make-in-Vietnam spirit and we hope that it will spread more to build more Make-in-Vietnam businesses and have more products, platforms, and pride of Vietnamese people in the near future,” he added. Deputy Minister Pham Duc Long said that Make-in-Vietnam enterprises were both Vietnamese enterprises as well as foreign enterprises investing, researching, and manufacturing in Vietnam. The country’s digital technology industry has also achieved impressive growth results. In 2020, due to the impact of the pandemic, the world economy witnessed negative growth. Vietnam achieved a GDP growth rate of 2.91 percent and became one of the few economies with positive growth. Vietnam’s digital technology industry had a growth rate of over 9 percent, which was three times higher than GDP growth. Long said currently, Vietnamese digital technology enterprises had not only processed and

assembled products for foreign countries, with the spirit of Make-in-Vietnam, but also manufactured and mastered products and platforms for the country’s digital transformation. With the spirit of Make-in-Vietnam, the products of local digital technology enterprises had been used and brought about many benefits. The Deputy Minister gave specific examples that the digital transformation of public services and document management systems in localities were by Make-in-Vietnam firms. The smart city management centres in 38 localities had been built by Vietnamese digital technology enterprises. Meanwhile, in the economic sector, Voso (Viettel Post) and Postmart (Vietnam Post) are two e-commerce platforms completely Make-in-Vietnam, which have helped farmers, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The spirit of Make-in-Vietnam has solved the problem of Vietnam and achieved many successes,” he added. /.

Source: <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-has-5600-new-digital-technology-firms-in-2021/217968.vnp>

Việt Nam expected to add 36 million middle class people in next decade



Vietnam News | 12 December, 2021

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam is expected to add 36 million people to its middle class by 2030, according to a recent report by McKinsey. The report “The new faces of the Vietnamese consumer” said that in the next decade, Việt Nam’s middle class was expected to continue to grow, spreading out geographically

and becoming more diverse. Powered by continued investments in its manufacturing sector, dynamic foreign direct investment and rising productivity, Việt Nam has been a consistent outperformer in Asia. Việt Nam is well positioned to be a significant driver of the next chapter of Asia's consumption story. Over the next decade, 36 million more consumers may join Việt Nam's consuming class, defined as consumers who spend at least US\$11 a day in purchasing power parity terms. This is a major change. In 2000, less than 10 per cent of Việt Nam's population were members of the consuming class, which has risen to 40 per cent today. By 2030, this figure may be close to 75 per cent. New consumption power is emerging not only from those who have entered the consuming class for the first time, but from the consuming class's sharp rise within the income pyramid. The two highest tiers of the consuming class (those spending US\$30 or more per day) are growing the fastest and may account for 20 per cent of Việt Nam's population by 2030. "Urbanisation is an important contributor to income growth. Việt Nam's urban population is projected to surge by 10 million over the next decade as the share of the country's urban population rises from 37 per cent in 2020 to 44 per cent by 2030," the report said. "Cities are likely to be Việt Nam's engine of growth, contributing roughly 90 per cent of all consumption growth over the next decade. The story of Việt Nam's urbanisation has often been centered around the populous cities of

Hà Nội and HCM City, with each city home to more than 10 million people and most of Vietnam's middle class. However, our analysis finds that over the next decade, sources of urban consumption are likely to spread to smaller cities, including Cần Thơ, Đà Nẵng and Hải Phòng." Across Asia, households are shrinking. The size of the average Vietnamese household has decreased by around 20 per cent over the past two decades, from 4.5 people per household in 1999 to 3.5 people per household in 2019. If the experience of other Asian markets holds true in Việt Nam, the declining size of households may lead to new types of demand, including smaller homes, increased ownership of pets and new forms of entertainment. Việt Nam remains a young country overall, with a median age of 32 in 2020. However, the number of people aged 60 and over is projected to increase by 5 million; seniors could account for more than 17 per cent of Việt Nam's population by 2030. Spending by seniors is expected to triple in the next decade, growing at more than double the rate for the population as a whole. So-called digital natives born between 1980 and 2012, including members of Generation Z and millennials, are expected to account for around 40 per cent of Việt Nam's consumption by 2030. Members of this digitally savvy generation live online and on their mobiles. Almost 70 per cent of Việt Nam's population in 2020 are internet users. Rapid digitisation is changing the daily channels and communication methods used by Vietnamese

people, particularly in e-commerce, where regional players, such as Shopee and Lazada, and local players such as Tiki, are active. The rapid emergence of digital consumers has fuelled innovation in retail and purchasing behaviour. — VNS

Source: <https://www.nationthailand.com/international>

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